



NAFO Northwest Atlantic
Fisheries Organization

Committed to **Conservation** and **Management** of **Fisheries** and **Ecosystems** in the Northwest Atlantic

2014 Annual Report



NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION



NAFO

36th Annual Meeting

22-26 September 2014
Vigo, Spain

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NORTHWEST ATLANTIC
FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Annual Report 2014

This Annual Report summarizes and highlights discussions, decisions and events of NAFO during 2013. It does not replace the detailed NAFO meeting reports (*Scientific Council Reports and Meeting Proceedings of the General Council and Fisheries Commission*) that are accessible on the NAFO Website.

www.nafo.int



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May 2015

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A Year in Review



The 2014 Annual Report provides an overview of NAFO's activities and accomplishments for that year. 2014 has been a year of adjustment, both with the new Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, adapting to the Secretariat, as well as the Secretariat adapting to its new Executive Secretary.

It has also been a busy year, which will continue, if not even more so, into 2015. At the September 2014 Annual Meeting, NAFO took steps to further strengthen the scientific basis for management decisions, to increase compliance and to improve the quality of the catch data it collects. NAFO has also made great progress in its development of an "ecosystem approach" to fisheries management. Two new areas were closed to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs), bringing the total up to

14 closed VME areas. The work in this field has been ground breaking and is becoming a model for other Regional Fishery Bodies.

Although many of the groundfish stocks regulated by NAFO continue to be under fishing moratoria, there continue to be signs that these stocks are recovering. In particular, in 2014 the witch flounder stock on the southern Grand Bank was deemed to be sufficiently recovered to allow the reopening of the fishery. This stock had been under a 20-year moratorium. Moreover, after several years of careful management, NAFO adopted a harvest control rule (HCR) for the redfish fishery on the northern Grand Bank aimed at rebuilding the stock to a level that would produce its maximum sustainable yield by 2021. Under this HCR it was possible to increase the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) by almost 50% in 2014.

NAFO has continued its recent practice of joint meetings of fishery managers and scientists, which have proven very productive. These joint meetings have focused on the development of risk-based management strategies for particular fish stocks, the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and improving the quality of catch statistics. Another working group on by-catches, discards and selectivity was also established and met for the first time in 2014. All four of these working groups will continue their respective deliberations in 2015.

Other highlights of 2014 include:

- The first meetings of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) with the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). JAGDM aims to promote consistency with regard to the management of fisheries data across the North Atlantic and, as appropriate, in other areas of the world;
- NAFO has addressed all of the recommendations of its 2011 Performance Review and continues to make good progress in their implementation;
- In the context of increasing oil and gas activity in the NAFO Regulatory Area, NAFO decided to explore an arrangement to exchange information as a means to try to avoid overlapping activities and to mitigate potential conflicts between fishing and oil and gas activities;
- NAFO has managed to be over \$60,000.00 under budget.

Finally we want to thank Spain for its excellent organization of the 2014 NAFO Annual Meeting in Vigo, as well as Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) for its excellent organization of the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting in Copenhagen and the Joint NAFO/ICES Pandalus Assessment Meeting in Nuuk, Greenland.



CONTRACTING



Canada



Cuba



Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)



European Union



France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon)

PARTIES of NAFO



Iceland



Japan



Norway



Republic of Korea



Russian Federation



Ukraine



United States of America

Officers

GENERAL COUNCIL



President of NAFO
General Council Chair
Veronika Veits (EU)
(Sep 2013-Sep 2015)



General Council
Vice-Chair
Stéphane Artano (France-SPM)
(Sep 2014-Sep 2016)

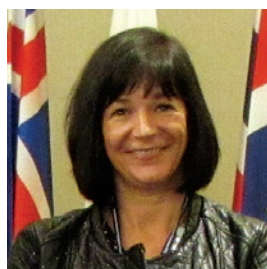


STACFAD Chair
Deirdre Warner-Kramer
(USA) (Sep 2014-Sep 2016)



STACFAD Vice-Chair
Elise Lavigne (Canada)
(Sep 2013-Sep 2015)

FISHERIES COMMISSION



Fisheries Commission
Chair
Sylvie Lapointe (Canada)
(Sep 2013-Sep 2015)



Fisheries Commission
Vice-Chair - Temur Tairov
(Russian Federation)
(Sep 2014-Sep 2016)



STACTIC Chair
Gene Martin (USA)
(Sep 2014-Sep 2015)



STACTIC Vice-Chair
Aronne Spezzani (EU)
(Sep 2014-Sep 2016)

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL



Scientific Council Chair
Don Stansbury (Canada)
(Sep 2013-Sep 2015)



SC Vice-Chair &
STACREC Chair
Katherine Sosebee (USA)
(Sep 2013-Sep 2015)



STACFIS Chair
Brian Healey (Canada)
(Sep 2013-Sep 2015)



STACFEN Chair
Estelle Couture (Canada)
(Sep 2013-Sep 2014)
Andrew Cogswell - Interim
(Canada)



STACPUB Chair
Margaret Treble (Canada)
(Sep 2013-Sep 2015)



ANNUAL MEETING

Vigo, Spain, 22-26 September 2014

NAFO's 36th Annual Meeting was held in Vigo, Spain in September 2014. The Mayor of Vigo, Mr. Abel Caballero Alvarez; the Conseilleira do Medio Rural e do Mar of the Xunta de Galicia, Mrs. Rosa Quintana Carballo; the Secretary General of Fisheries from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Mr. Andres Hermida Trastoy; and the President of NAFO, Veronika Veits (EU), welcomed delegates to Vigo.

The main results of the meeting are contained in NAFO's press release, found at this link: www.nafo.int/about/media/press/press-2014.pdf

Informal presentations of work done in support of fisheries were made by a number of local organizations including the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the Cooperativa de Armadores de Pesca de Vigo (ARVI) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA). A meeting reception at Vigo's Museo de Mar featuring local seafood was organized by the Spanish hosts.



Left to right: the Secretary General of Fisheries from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Mr. Andres Hermida Trastoy; the Mayor of Vigo, Mr. Abel Caballero Alvarez; the President of NAFO, Veronika Veits (EU); the Conseilleira do Medio Rural e do Mar of the Xunta de Galicia, Mrs. Rosa Quintana Carballo; and the Executive Secretary of NAFO, Fred Kingston.



Heads of Delegation – left to right; back row: Chungmo Jung (Korea), Dean Swanson (USA), Vladimir Sokolov (Russia), Kenro Iino (Japan), Stéphane Artano (SPM-France), Kevin Stringer (Canada), Nicolas Dross (EU), Fred Kingston (Executive Secretary).

Front row: Jóhanna Lava Kötlum (DFG-Greenland), Elin Mortensen (DFG-Faroe Islands), Sigrun Holst (Norway), Veronika Veits (President of NAFO and GC Chair), Nora Yong Mena (Cuba), Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir (Iceland).



Left to right: Veronika Veits (President of NAFO and GC Chair), Don Stansbury (SC Chair), Sylvie Lapointe (FC Chair).



PORT OF VIGO



36th Annual Meeting

22-26 September 2014
Vigo, Spain



Mar de Vigo Convention Centre



A meeting reception at Vigo's Museo de Mar featuring local seafood was organized by the Spanish hosts.

Informal presentations of work done in support of fisheries were made by a number of local organizations including the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the Cooperativa de Armadores de Pesca de Vigo (ARVI) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).



GENERAL COUNCIL

STATUS OF RATIFICATION



In 2014 six Contracting Parties had completed the ratification process. NAFO needs nine of twelve Contracting Parties to ratify the amended Convention in their own parliaments before it can become a legally binding instrument.



General Council in session

6 FINANCIAL STATUS UPDATE

The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration or STACFAD as it is often called, oversees the budget and administrative matters of the Secretariat. Deidre Warner-Kramer (USA) chaired the committee during its deliberations at the 2014 Annual Meeting in Vigo, Spain where she was also re-elected as Chair for another two year term.

As a number of NAFO's CPs stated at the 2013 Annual Meeting that they were dealing with reductions within their internal budgets, the NAFO budget for 2014 was held at \$1.890 million of which \$1.676 million was financed through contributions received from its Contracting Parties (Fig. 1). The NAFO Convention (Article XVI.3) establishes a three part cost sharing formula, including a proportion based on the nominal catches in the Convention Area.

The overall financial affairs of the Organization continue to be sound shape with only one partial contribution outstanding from its members at year end. The Secretariat worked diligently throughout the year to control expenses which resulted in expenditures being \$63,714 under the approved budget for the 2014 fiscal year. Following last year's amendment to the NAFO Financial Regulations to allow Auditors to serve for a maximum term of five years, up from a previous maximum of three years, W|B|L|I Chartered Accountants contract to audit the financial records of the Organization was extended for an additional two years.

At the 2013 Annual Meeting, the Secretariat was requested to research any potential cost-recovery measures, including the approval that an appropriate attendance fee be established and charged to accredited observers to offset the additional costs of their participation in meetings. The implementation of observer attendance fees, as well as boardroom rental fees, resulted in additional revenue for the year.

The Secretariat has been working with the partners of the NAFO Potential Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems - Impacts of Deep-sea Fisheries (NEREIDA) project in its application to the European Union for a grant to cover a portion of the funding necessary to complete the project. The grant was approved and the Secretariat received the first installment of funds from the grant in the amount of €77,000. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) has begun working on the analysis of the box core samples of the seabed from the first phase of the NEREIDA program in order to identify and quantify the presence of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) indicator species in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Approximately €34,000 has been advanced to CEFAS from the NEREIDA grant funds. Instituto Español de Oceanografía's (IEO) implementation of the NEREIDA project has been delayed until 2015 due to administrative issues.

The next meeting of STACFAD will be held in September 2015 during the 2015 Annual Meeting of NAFO in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Visit

www.nafo.int/publications/frames/proceedings.html
for General Council reports

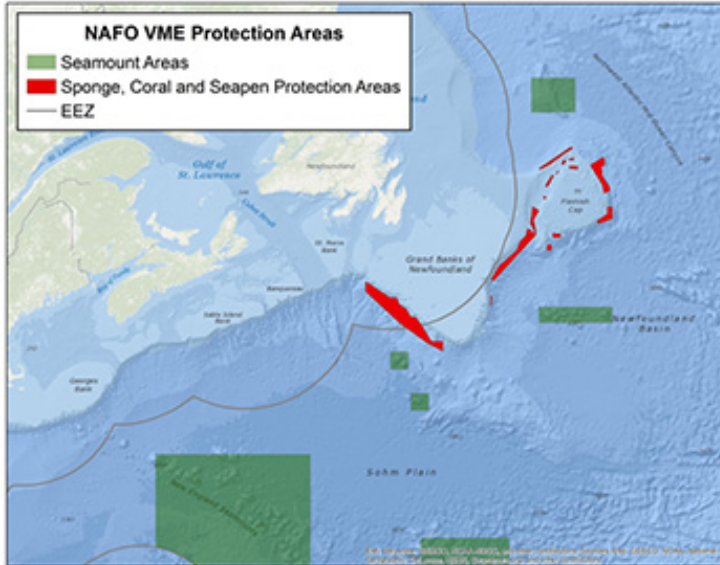
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FISHERIES COMMISSION

MANAGEMENT



Sponge/Coral and Seamount Protection Area

A review of closed areas for protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) was carried out this year and the current closures were extended until 2020. Two new closed areas were also adopted in the NAFO Area.

Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Groups

Following the Performance Review Recommendations to improve dialogue between fishery managers and scientists, Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Groups were established to provide a forum for this dialogue. In 2013, two such Working Groups were established: the Risk Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) and the Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM). These groups met for the first time in 2014. In addition, an ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR) was set up to address issues raised by the Peer Review Expert Panel.

Final documents and reports from the joint groups are archived in a new series of documents entitled FC-SC Documents.

Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

Based on scientific advice existing moratoria were extended to allow rebuilding of depleted stocks, while quotas for other stocks were set.

TAC TABLE 2014 AND 2015 (metric tons)

Stock/Year	2014	2015
3L Cod	*	*
3M Cod	14 521	13 795
3NO	*	*
3LN Redfish	7 000	10 400
3M Redfish	6 500	6 700
3O Redfish	20 000	20 000
Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K Redfish	0	0
3LNO American plaice	*	*
3M American plaice	*	*
3LNO Yellowtail flounder	17 000	17 000
3L Witch flounder	*	*
3NO Witch flounder	*	1 000
3NO White hake	1 000	1 000
3NO Capelin	*	*
3LNO Skates	7 000	7 000
3LMNO Greenland halibut	11 442	11 543
Sub-areas 3+4 Squid (Illex)	34 000	34 000
3L Shrimp	4 300	*
3NO Shrimp	*	*
3M Shrimp	*	*

*Moratorium

Other Working Groups

In addition, an ad hoc Fisheries Commission Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity was established and it had its first meeting in 2014. Although not formally a joint WG, the Scientific Council is actively engaged in the WG.



FISHERY TRENDS

NAFO identifies three main fisheries in its Regulatory Area: the groundfish (GRO – primary in Div. 3KLMNO), shrimp (PRA – primary in Div. 3LM) and pelagic redfish fisheries (REB – primarily in Div. 1F and 2J).

In 2014, there were 60 fishing vessels spending a total of 4 809 days in the NAFO Regulatory Area (Table 1) and 141 trips were identified. Groundfish fisheries accounted for 97.4% of the total fishing effort, shrimp around 1.4%, and the pelagic redfish fishery around 1.2% (Fig. 1).

Despite a decrease of about 64.74% of the total number of days of the shrimp fishing effort in 2014 compared to the previous year, a slight increase of 0.65% of the total fishing effort was observed (Table 1) compared to 2013. The groundfish fishing effort increased by 3.9% (Table 1).

For the period 2004–2014, the overall fishing activities in the NRA show a declining trend, from 134 active vessels in 2004 to 60 in 2014, representing a 55% decrease. The decline in terms of overall fishing days was a 70.8% decrease for

the same period from 16 480 days in 2004 to 4 809 days in 2014. The average number of days each vessel operates in the NAFO Regulatory Area also declined from 123 days in 2004 to 80 days in 2014.

Fig. 2 illustrates the changes described above for each of the major fisheries. NAFO fisheries remain dominated by the groundfish category.

Table 1. A summary of the fishing effort (measured in days) and the number of fishing vessels in the NAFO Regulatory area in 2013 and 2014, with the percent change between the two years. GRO = Groundfish, PRA = Shrimp, REB = Pelagic Redfish.

		GRO	PRA	REB	Total
Effort (Fishing Days)	2013	4 509	190	79	4 778
	2014	4 685	67	57	4 809
	% Change	3.90%	-64.74%	-27.85%	0.65%
Number of Vessels	2013	54	7	4	64
	2014	53	5	5	60
	% Change	-1.85%	-28.57%	25.00%	-6.25%

Percentage fishing effort in NRA 2014

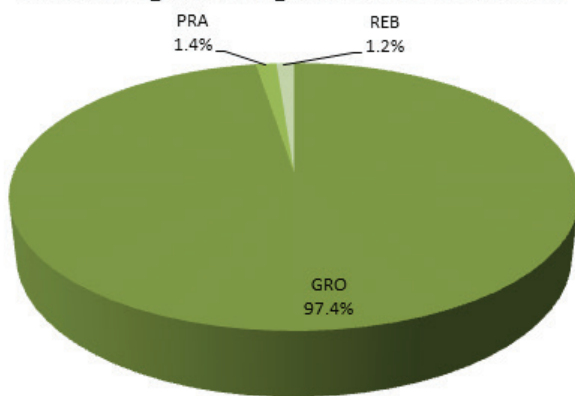
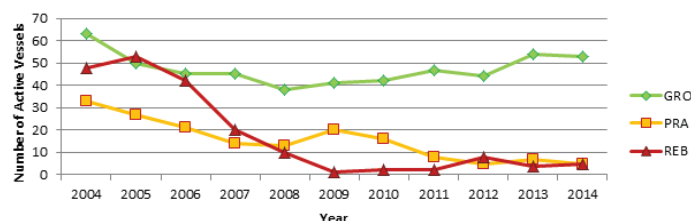


Fig. 1. The percentage of fishing effort (based on the number of days) in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2014.

Number of Active Vessels



Fishing Effort in the NRA

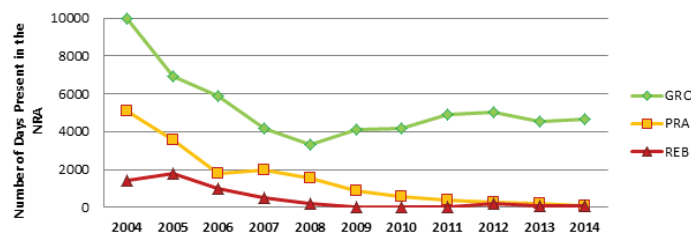


Fig. 2. The number of active vessels (top graph) and the fishing effort (bottom graph) trends from 2004 to 2014 for the groundfish (GRO) shrimp (PRA), and pelagic redfish (REB) fisheries.



COMPLIANCE

The Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme is implemented to ensure compliance of NAFO-registered fishing vessels in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA). Inspectors are appointed by Contracting Parties and assigned to fishery patrol vessels tasked to carry out inspection duties at sea. In 2014, Canada and the European Union deployed inspection vessels in the NRA.

In all 131 boarding/inspections were conducted at sea, and of those, there were 10 apparent infringements detected. There were also 95 port inspections completed in 2014, with 10 having apparent infringements detected.

The Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) reviewed the cases of Apparent Infringements and found that the follow-up actions or dispositions reported by the Contracting Parties were consistent with their respective domestic legislations.



Visit
www.nafo.int/publications/frames/fisheries.html
for complete information



SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL



June Scientific Council Meeting in session

STOCK STATUS

10 NAFO's Scientific Council met during 30 May – 12 June 2014 at the new venue at Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada to produce advice to Fisheries Commission and Coastal States on the status of fish stocks, the implementation of NAFO's roadmap to an ecosystem approach and precautionary approach framework. This year, the Council assessed the status of six stocks fished in the high seas of the northwest Atlantic, and several more in the Davis Strait, at the request of Canada and Greenland.



The assessment of the redfish on the north of the Grand Bank showed

the stock to be well above its limit reference point and subject to low fishing mortality. A management strategy was developed, allowing catches to grow in a steady and sustainable manner, to a level where the stock is producing its maximum sustainable yield. Signs of recovery seen in

the Witch flounder stock on the southern Grand Bank continued, and Scientific Council was able to identify reference points for biomass and fishing mortality for this stock. Evidence suggested the stock biomass was above this level, and subject to low fishing mortality, therefore a limited opening of the fishery was recommended. On the Flemish Cap, the stock of cod appears in good health, but has been subject to levels of fishing mortality which are unsustainable in the long term. A work-plan to develop a sustainable harvest control rule for this stock was agreed.

The Council considered the work of the Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA) on the reassessment of VME areas. Advice was given to managers in the context of a table of coverage, concerns and priorities for each closure, enabling a debate by managers on the best way forward.

In September, the Council met in Nuuk, Greenland, to advise on the status of shrimp stocks. Both the Grand Bank and Flemish Cap stocks are now below their biomass limit reference points, and the closure of the Grand Bank fishery was advised. The Flemish Cap stock was closed in 2012, and shows no sign of recovery.



FISHERIES & ENVIRONMENT

During their annual meeting, the Scientific Council also discussed the general climate over the previous year, in relation to longer-term trends. Oceanographic conditions in NAFO waters are mainly determined by the strength of the winter atmospheric circulation over the northwest Atlantic, measured by the North Atlantic Oscillation index (NAO), a key indicator of climate conditions over the North Atlantic. The NAO was slightly negative in 2013 indicating a decrease in arctic air outflow and a warming of winter air temperatures



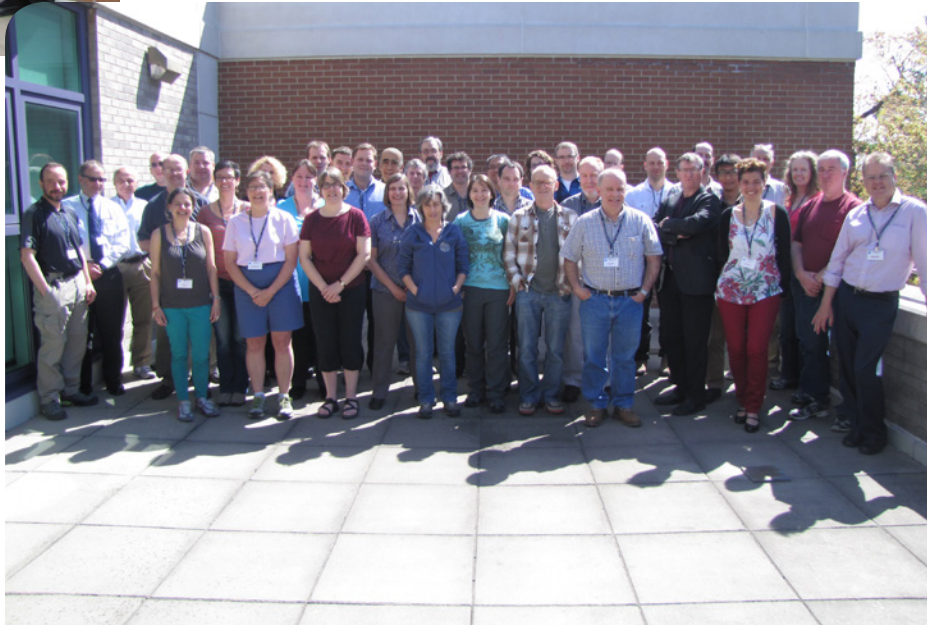


Left to right: Don Stansbury, Chair of Scientific Council; Brian Healey, Chair of STACFIS; Neil Campbell, Scientific Council Coordinator; Margaret Preble, Chair of STACPUB; Mariano Alonso-Koen & Andrew Kenney, Co-Chairs WGESA (Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment); Kathy Sosebee, Vice-Chair SC and Chair of STACREC; Estelle Couture, Chair of STACFEN.

Scientific Council members, left to right, back row: Mariano Alonso-Koen, Fred Kingston, Vladimir Babyan, Konstantin Fomin, Ricardo Alpoim, Estelle Couture, Guillaume Dauphin, Ivan Tretiakov, Antonio Avila de Mílo, Aldo Solari, Zelian Wang, Nancy Shackell, Rick Rideout, Brian Healey, Rasmus Nygaard, Mark Simpson, Ole Jørgensen, Dawn Maddock Parsons, Eugene Colbourne, Andrew Kenney.

Middle row: Don Power, Karen Dwyer, Kathy Sosobee, Andrew Cogswell, Dave Hebert, Mathieu Oullet, Eugene Lee, Don Stansbury, Shiroh Yonezaki, Maria Elvira (Mariel) Murazzi.

Front row: Daniella Diz, Lisa Hendrickson, Margaret Treble, Joanne Morgan, Monica Mandado, Diana González-Troncoso, Fernando González-Costas, Gary Maillet.



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over the previous year. Annual air temperature over Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Scotian shelf remained above normal, while the annual sea ice extent on the Newfoundland Shelf remained below normal for the 18th consecutive year and decreased slightly compared to 2012 conditions. Ice coverage and volume on the Scotian Shelf were the seventh lowest in the 52 year long record while 2010, 2011 and 2012 had the second to fourth lowest.

ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

The Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA) met at the NAFO Headquarters during November 2014 to address requests for advice and its standing terms of reference. Further results of the NEREIDA project were presented, and work was ongoing on identifying and delineating ecoregion-level management units,

defining “fisheries” in the NAFO context, for use in the 2016 review of bottom fishing, and for reviewing activities other than fishing which may impact on the fish stocks and ecosystems of the NAFO regulatory area. This material will be presented to Scientific Council at its June 2015 meeting.

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MEETINGS

NAFO MEETINGS 2014

- 03-04 February 2014 **Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR)** in Halifax, NS, Canada
- 05-07 February 2014 **Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS)** in Halifax, NS, Canada
- 18-19 March 2014 **Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)** in Dartmouth, NS, Canada
- 24-28 March 2014 **Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Deep-water Ecology in ICES**, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 23-25 April 2014 **International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society Annual Meeting** in La Jolla, California, USA
- 05 May 2014 **Scientific Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Div. 3M Cod Catches** (WebEx)
- 05-07 May 2014 **Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting** in Copenhagen, Denmark
- 13 May 2014 **Scientific Council Working Group on Development of a Management Strategy for Div. 3LN Redfish** (WebEx)
- 30 May-12 June 2014 **Scientific Council and its Standing Committees Meeting** in Halifax, NS, Canada

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SC JUNE MEETING



- 07-08 July 2014 **Fisheries Commission Ad Hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS)** in Dartmouth, NS, Canada
- 09-11 July 2014 **Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM)** in Halifax, NS, Canada
- 10-17 September 2014 **Scientific Council and NAFO/ICES Pandalus Assessment Group** in Nuuk, Greenland
- 22-26 September 2014 **NAFO 36th Annual Meeting** in Vigo, Spain
- 19-27 November 2014 **Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA)** in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada
- 17-21 November 2014 **ICES-NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (WG-HARP)** in Quebec City, QC, Canada

Reports of all NAFO meetings are finalized following the meeting end and posted on the NAFO website. (www.nafo.int/publications/frames/publications.html)



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Greenland Institute of Natural Resources,
Nuuk, Greenland





NAFO 36TH Annual Meeting in
Vigo, Spain



SC WG-ESA

14

External Meetings

EU Data Collection Framework Revision Stakeholders Workshop

A framework for the collection and management of fisheries data in the EU has been in place since 2000, and was last reformed in 2008 resulting in the Data Collection Framework (DCF). Under this framework, Member States are obliged to collect, manage and make available a wide range of fisheries data needed for scientific advice, mainly for the purpose of fisheries management decisions, in the framework of multi-annual national programs.

The NAFO Secretariat was invited to attend the third Stakeholder Meeting on the Revision of the Data Collection Framework (DCF) held on 16 January, 2014 in Brussels, Belgium. Evaluations of the current system presented to the meeting identified its strengths namely data collection has been harmonized; end-users consider that the DCF has produced data that enables the production of sound scientific advice; the quantity of available data has

improved; regional cooperation has increased; there is overall good compliance and; it is a cost efficient system.

The scope of the DCF is being aligned with new needs arising from the revision of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Basic Regulation, and to improve alignment between the DCF and other EU instruments relating to data collection and provision. From a NAFO perspective, the key elements relate to the EU's new landing obligation, particularly as regards the sampling of discards, and to the impact of fisheries on the ecosystem.

FAO VME Database Workshop

The SC and FC Coordinators attended the final FAO VME Database Meeting during 7-9 May, 2014 at FAO Headquarters. NAFO has been involved in this project since its inception in 2011 and this meeting marked the final stages of the initiative. The NAFO/Canada case study model for the VME database was not adopted by the FAO, although some of the elements are still





present, such as the map view and regional overviews of action by each RFMO.

The database presents a number of layers (closures, footprints, other

areas) and allows searching on a number of criteria. Printable fact sheets on each measure can be created, and the database also features a time-slider, enabling users to see when measures were introduced. The project coordinator, Tony Thompson, has entered much of the NAFO information. FAO aims to make the project live in October.

Going forward, it is estimated that around 2-3 days/year of Secretariat staff time will be required to keep the database up to date. This will probably be approached in a similar manner to FIRMS, with a memorandum of understanding being entered into by General Council.

International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS)

The annual meeting of the IFCPS was hosted by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) during 23-25 April 2014 in La Jolla, California, USA. The meeting was attended by representatives of the seven International Fisheries Commissions with headquarters located in Canada and the United States of America. Also attending the meeting were the IFCPS directors appointed by the Governments of Canada and the United States. NAFO was represented by Fred Kingston, Executive Secretary, and Stan Goodick, Deputy Executive Secretary/Senior Finance and Staff Administrator. Discussions focused on the results of the 2014 actuarial valuation and the performance of the pension plan investments. The 2015 annual meeting will be hosted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada during 14-16 April 2015 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

31st Session of COFI

The Executive Secretary attended in an observer capacity the 31st Session of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI), which took place in Rome, Italy from 9 to 13 June 2014. Discussion focused on the FAO's State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2014 Report, progress in the implementation of the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the endorsement of the FAO's Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries. Attendance at the COFI meeting also provided an opportunity for the Executive Secretary to meet with officials of the FAO to discuss various FAO projects and initiatives in which NAFO is participating (e.g. FIRMS, ASFA, CWP, VME database and the ABNJ).

RSN-5

In the margins of the COFI meeting in Rome, the Executive Secretary also attended the two sessions (7 and 13 June 2014) of the Fifth meeting of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN-5). The meeting was attended by 36 of the 51 RSN members. The first session began with a discussion on the upcoming COFI meeting, including a presentation on the responses of various regional fishery bodies to COFI's "Blue Growth" initiative. This was followed by a series of presentations on a range of fisheries matters, including CITES, ghost fishing, the Oslo-Paris convention (OSPAR), role of ICES, inland fisheries and news from the UN Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS). The second session provided an opportunity to discuss the results of the COFI meeting, as well as to decide some procedural matters. Stefan Asmundsson (Executive Secretary of NEAFC) was elected Chair of RSN, replacing Andrew Wright (Executive Secretary of CCAMLR). Yugraj Yadava (Director of BOBP-IGO) remained as Vice-Chair and Kaitira Ibarahim Katonga (Director of Fisheries, LTA) remained as second Vice-Chair. The RSN Secretary, Gail Lugten (RSN Liaison Officer of the FAO Secretariat) also announced her retirement and her replacement will be Pierro Mannini.



RSN-5

WECAFC

The co-chair of WG-ESA and WG-EAFFM, Andrew Kenny, and the SC Coordinator, Neil Campbell, participated remotely in a technical workshop on bottom fisheries in high seas areas of the western central Atlantic, organized by the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC). The workshop aimed to generate awareness of deep sea fisheries issues, identify stakeholders and begin the process of sharing information, in the western Atlantic. The WECAFC Secretariat warmly welcomed a presentation on NAFO's implementation of the ecosystem approach.



SECRETARIAT Activities

SECRETARIAT STAFF MEMBERS 2014

Executive Secretary	Fred Kingston
Deputy Executive Secretary and Senior Finance and Staff Administrator	Stan Goodick
Executive Assistant to the Executive Secretary	Lisa LeFort
Sr. Fisheries Commission Coordinator	Ricardo Federizon
Scientific Council Coordinator	Neil Campbell
Administrative Assistant	Tracey Ward (to Jan. 9 th)
Sr. Information Officer	Barbara Marshall
Sr. Fisheries Information Manager	Cindy Kerr
IT Manager	Matt Kendall
Database Manager	Mark Harley
Publications Manager	Alexis Pacey
Office Administrator	Sarah Burton (from June 9 th)



*Left to right, back row: Fred Kingston, Ricardo Federizon, Mark Harley, Stan Goodick,
Middle row: Barb Marshall, Cindy Kerr, Matt Kendall
Front row: Sarah Burton, Alexis Pacey, Lisa LeFort, Neil Campbell*

RECRUITMENT

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In 2014, the new year brought new changes to the Secretariat staff at NAFO, including the successful recruitment, and welcoming, of two new employees, and filling a position internally. The changes, and positions filled, included: Executive Secretary, Executive Assistant and Office Administrator.

The new year began with a new Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, who started his appointment in January 2014. He is NAFO Secretariat's chief administrative officer, managing employees and employee-related issues of the Secretariat, as well as other duties and functions as the General Council of NAFO may prescribe. These other duties include supervising and coordinating NAFO Secretariat activities, providing all necessary support for meetings and implementing, as required, decisions of the General Council, Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council.

Fred is a Canadian who brings a wealth of knowledge to this position with over 25 years experience with the EU Delegation in Ottawa, Canada. He has past involvement with NAFO, as a delegate from the EU, and in recent years, as both the Chair (1889-2007), and interim Chair (2012) of STACFAD, focusing on the financial and administrative side of the organization.

In addition to a new Executive Secretary, a new Executive Assistant was appointed early in the year as well. Lisa Lefort, previously the Office Manager, filled the position temporarily, and then permanently in April 2014, after the leave of Tracey Ward (Administrative Assistant) in January 2014.

Lisa has been with the Secretariat for seven years and looks forward to her new duties as Executive Assistant taking over responsibility of the routine communications with NAFO Contracting Parties;

compilation and archiving of reports, letters and notifications; preparation of meeting materials of General Council and Fisheries Commission and their subsidiary bodies; and serving as the main Secretariat contact for NAFO participants.

In light of this transition, an opening for Office Administrator became available. After receiving multiple applications, Sarah Burton was the successful candidate, beginning her role at the Secretariat in June 2014. Sarah's main responsibilities include the various coordination and organization efforts of NAFO meetings, managing office supplies and maintenance, and providing administrative support to the NAFO Secretariat. Sarah attended Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) and earned a diploma in both Tourism Management and Business Administration.



INTERNSHIPS

At the 2011 Annual Meeting, NAFO adopted an internship program for the Organization. Since then, five interns have taken part in the program successfully gaining new knowledge while assisting with various tasks. However, due to budget considerations for the 2014 year, only one intern, Maria Elvira Murazzi (Mariel), worked with the Secretariat for a three-month duration.



Maria Elvira (Mariel) Murazzi

Hailing from Italy, Mariel arrived at the NAFO Secretariat for a three month internship from May to August 2014. Prior to arriving at the Secretariat, Mariel successfully completed a MS degree in Marine Biology, and a BA degree in Environmental Science.

Over the course of her internship, Mariel had the opportunity to gain international experience with a Regional Fishery Management Organization and contribute to various office duties. In addition, she had the opportunity to research all areas and functions of the Secretariat, under the supervision of both the Scientific Council Coordinator and the Senior Information Officer.

In three short months, she performed communication strategy research; updated the fishery resources pages on the NAFO website; and worked with the Fisheries team conducting research analysis on the NAFO CEM (Conservation and Management Measures) and all while taking part in catch and bycatch data analysis.

During her time at the Secretariat, Mariel had the chance to participate in the Scientific Council Meeting, the Fisheries Commission Ad Hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity and the Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management.



OUTREACH

During the 2014 year, the Secretariat continued their media relations via press releases promptly after both the publication of the reports of the Scientific Council meeting in June and the Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) in July. The information distributed resulted in NAFO making various headlines in fisheries news publications, including an interview with the Fisheries Broadcast (CBC) in Canada.

The new Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, was also interviewed by the Burnside News (a local Dartmouth, Nova Scotia publication) and Fishing News International.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

This year the Secretariat made great strides to reinvigorate and strengthen its relationships with the thriving local academic community through various external relations ventures.

In March and April, the Secretariat had a series of meetings with Dalhousie University, who are known for being global leaders in ocean research. These meetings included various faculty of Dalhousie such as: the President of Dalhousie University, the Director of International Research and Development, the Director of the Marine Affairs Program, the Director of the Marine and Environmental Law Institute, the Executive Director of the Ocean Tracking Network and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science. In June, the Executive Secretary met with the Director of the School of Environment for Saint Mary's University in Halifax, as well as the coordinators for the Bachelor of Science (Science Communication) degree at Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax.

Through the extensive communication with these contacts, it was concluded that NAFO will consider future student internship placements; sharing data, and other research materials and expertise; guest lecturing by NAFO staff; facilitating contacts between university researchers and NAFO fishery scientists and managers; the participation of university representatives as formal observers to NAFO meetings; and hosting NAFO meetings on the university campuses.

In addition to external relations efforts with various universities, the new Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, introduced himself to the Protocol Office of the government of Nova Scotia in March. In June, he connected with the Consular Corps, mainly Honorary Consuls, and met the Consul General of the USA in Halifax.

European Fisheries Control Agency

Just prior to the start of the Annual Meeting in Vigo, Spain, on 19 September, the Executive Secretary visited the European Fisheries Control Agency, which is situated in Vigo. He met with EFCA's Executive Director, Pascal Savouret, and was given an overview of EFCA's operations. EFCA coordinates the EU control and enforcement activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area.



*Fred Kingston ES and Richard Reilly
US Consul General in Halifax*

IOI - International Ocean Institute

On 12 November, the Executive Secretary met with the Director of the International Ocean Institute in Canada (IOI Canada), Michael Butler to discuss closer cooperation.

Oil and Gas

In the context of increased oil and gas activity in the NAFO Regulatory Area and NAFO's decision to explore an information exchange arrangement to try to mitigate potential conflicts between the fishing and the oil and gas industries, from 25 to 27 November, the Executive Secretary and the Fisheries Commission Coordinator were in St. John's, Newfoundland. There they met informally with the Chair of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB), Scott Tessier, and representatives of the C-NLOPB, as well as with representatives of the region's offshore oil and gas industry, the regional headquarters of the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and the local fishing industry to try to give me a better understanding of the possible issues involved.

Other matters

With the inclusion of various external relations, the NAFO Secretariat continues to offer the use of their boardroom to affiliated groups for a nominal fee. This past year, Simon Fraser University hosted a working group at the Secretariat office utilizing this boardroom space.



GUESTS TO THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat had various visitors over the past year beginning with Mr. Erik Nobbe, the Honourary Consul for Norway on 23 May. During his visit, discussion focused on the state of the fisheries in the northwest Atlantic.

The following month, on 12 June, while visiting port facilities in Halifax and Dartmouth area, three Japanese guests paid a courtesy visit to NAFO. Mr. Takahisa Tanabe (former Japanese Fisheries representative in Canada), Mr. Makoto Kato (Japanese Fishing Vessel owner/operator's son) and Mr. Yoshinobu Nishikawa (Taiyo A & F/Manager) dropped in for a short visit with the Fisheries Team.

On 6 August, Chad Ward and Anne-Lis Mathisen, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, NL, representatives, visited the Secretariat. The visit presented itself as an opportunity to visit and meet with relevant Secretariat staff that they communicate with on a regular basis regarding fisheries issues such as VMS, inspection and Port State matters.

In late September 2014, the Secretariat was pleased to welcome Marie-Anne Coninx, Ambassador of the European Union to Canada, during her first official visit to Nova Scotia in the wake of the successful conclusion of negotiations with Canada on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Accompanied by Karen Eva Abrahamsen, Senior Advisor at the Trade and Economic Section, European Union Delegation to Canada, the Ambassador was eager to discuss the outcomes of the NAFO Annual Meeting as well as current issues in the high-seas fisheries.

INTERNATIONAL OCEANS DAY

The NAFO Secretariat continued to participate in World Oceans Day 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Friday, 6 June at the Halifax waterfront at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, talking to local students about NAFO and its role in the northwest Atlantic.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION: USE AND INFLUENCE (EIUI) RESEARCH PROJECT

In 2014, NAFO continued to support the Dalhousie University Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) Research Project. In April, Alexis Pacey (Publications Manager) was elected the Chair of the Steering Committee for this project. The project results in student interest, and involvement with NAFO, as many decided to attend the June SC meeting as observers. EIUI research addresses the use and influence of marine environmental and fisheries information produced by governmental and non-governmental organizations, with a focus on their grey literature publications. In addition, it probes the complex science-policy interface(s) so as to understand and maximize the role (use and influence) of such information in policy and decision-making processes.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

Throughout the year the NAFO Secretariat regularly responds to requests from various international sources and this year proved to be no different. During the last year, the Secretariat has responded specifically to:

- FAO Questionnaire for Monitoring the Implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the International Plans of Action on Capacity, Sharks, Seabirds, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and the Strategies for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Request for input to the UN Secretary-General's report on developments in the field of ocean affairs pursuant to UNGA Resolution 68/70 on Ocean and the Law of the Sea
- Regional Secretariat's Network (RSN): Blue Growth Initiative
- Contribution to RSN Newsletters
- Request by NASCO regarding IUU fishing for salmon and bycatch of salmon in NAFO waters.
- SPRFMO request for VMS set-up information.

Throughout the year various simple and informal requests are made to the Secretariat regarding specific information, procedures of NAFO, etc. by students, educational institutes, RFMOs, CPs representatives or other organizations. These are answered to the best of the ability and as time permits by various members of the NAFO Secretariat.

FAO ABNJ PROJECT

In 2013, NAFO was invited to be a partner in the FAO-GEF Project "Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)". NAFO's participation will be guided by the activities table which was jointly prepared by FAO and the NAFO Secretariat and which may be modified as the project progresses. The NAFO support to the project is estimated to be an in-kind contribution over the period of 2014-2018. This in-kind contribution represents staff time for activities and meeting expenses for work on deep sea fisheries, and administrative expenses for NAFO's current core activities and operations which are of direct relevance to deep sea fisheries. These are costs that are being implemented, or planned, by the regular work of NAFO towards the organization's objective.

THE NEW JOINT ADVISORY GROUP ON DATA MANAGEMENT (JAGDM) GROUP

In 2013, JAGDM was created as a technical experts group to provide advice on technical issues and to promote harmonization and standardization in the area of fisheries data management & communications. Currently the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and NAFO participate. The first two meetings were held this year.

Matt Kendall (IT Manager) attended the inaugural meeting of the JAGDM on 18-19 March, in Dartmouth, N.S. and provided meeting support on behalf of the Secretariat. The main topics discussed during this meeting included the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the new group, as well as NEAFC's Information Security Management System (ISMS).

The second JAGDM meeting of the year was held in London, UK on 17-18 June. Matt Kendall attended and further discussions were held regarding NEAFC's ISMS. A preliminary technical and



logistical discussion was also had on the possibility of NAFO creating its own ISMS and the benefits this might provide.

INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ISMS)

At the September 2014 Annual Meeting, FC endorsed the implementation of an Information Security and Management System for NAFO. To ensure implementation, the Secretariat is performing an external audit of the current information technology (IT) system. The Secretariat will provide an update at the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional meeting in Tallinn, Estonia.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Security and Auditing Policies

Over the course of 2014, IT services helped create increased data security and protection, through various methods, as well as increased the feasibility of many services provided. This year the Secretariat began to look at how secure data housed at the Secretariat can be better protected. This will be an ongoing process but phase one was successfully completed. This included tightening password policies, user logon auditing and monthly testing of the restoration of data from our backup tapes.

Server Room

A second UPS (Surge protection and backup battery) was installed in the server room at the NAFO Secretariat to ensure critical hardware is protected from potential power surges and kept running during short power interruptions. The Secretariat is also in the process of installing a new air conditioning system in both the server room and the wiring closet.

NAFO Web Pages

NAFO now has a comprehensive set of web pages that provide useful services to both the public, Contracting Parties and most recently NAFO Inspectors. These pages continue to be updated with current information. The Secretariat is presently reviewing the structure of the websites to ensure they provide the best ease of use and practicality for Contracting Parties.

Inspection webpage progress

The Inspectors web site has been incorporated into the NAFO Monitoring, Control, & Surveillance (MCS) web site. Work continues based upon the feedback that has been received.

SharePoint

The SharePoint continues to be a valuable resource for the Scientific Council replacing the network and allowing access to the meeting documentation both during the meeting and after hours (<http://sc.nafo.int>).

This year the Joint FC-SC Working Groups began using this technology for its meetings and it is hoped to be able to provide this service to all NAFO meeting in the near future. (<http://meetings.nafo.int>)

Search functionality

In order to enhance usability to the NAFO web pages a google search tool was added to allow easier access to historical NAFO and ICNAF documentation.

JNAFS Website

Development of a new website for the Journal of the Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science has been undertaken to update the current website. This work will be completed in 2015.

PUBLICATIONS

In collaboration with the WG-ESA (Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment), the publications department will be publishing a newly revised NAFO Coral and Sponge Identification Guide for 2015. This edition will be a combination of the 2009 NAFO Coral Identification Guide and the 2010 NAFO Sponge Identification Guide with the addition of newly discovered VME indicator species. NAFO is also collaborating with WWF-Canada, which is currently working on developing a marine species identification application to assist at-sea fisheries observers and fishers to quickly and accurately identify species on mobile devices.

LIST OF NAFO PUBLICATIONS

NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (188 pages)

NAFO Annual Report 2013
(On-line and a 16 page booklet)

NAFO Meeting Proceedings of GC/FC for 2013/2014
(366 pages)

NAFO Scientific Council Reports 2014 (421 pages)

NAFO Scientific Council Studies Number 46, 2014
(51 pages on-line)

NAFO Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science
Volume 46, 2014 (45 pages)

Meeting Documentation CD (GC/FC Proceedings 13–14
SC Reports 2013, NAFO Convention, NCEM 2014, Rules of
Procedures, Annual Report 2013)

NAFO Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations booklet
(33 pages)

Coral Identification Guide NAFO Area – a booklet featuring
the various corals and seamounts in the NAFO area. (water
resistant and tear-proof coil bound booklet - 37 pages)

Sponge Identification Guide NAFO Area – a booklet featuring
the various sponges and seamounts in the NAFO area. It is
based on the same style as the *Coral Guide*. (water resistant and
tear-proof coil bound booklet - 52 pages)

Early Stages of Fishes in the Western North Atlantic Ocean
by Michael P. Fahay - Two volume monograph.



The Many Views of Vigo



Vigo's Museo de Mar

The streets of Vigo, Spain



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